

CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling a periodic product waveform produced by a system having a linear transfer function in response to a drive signal so as to match a target waveform, comprising the steps of:

- a) sensing at least one period of the product waveform and generating control input digital data representative of said waveform;
- 10 b) performing a Fourier transform on said control input digital data to generate control input Fourier coefficients corresponding to said product waveform;
- c) performing a Fourier transform on target digital data representative of a period of said target waveform to generate target Fourier coefficients corresponding to said target waveform;
- 15 d) comparing said control input Fourier coefficients and said target Fourier coefficients to generate a set of error coefficients;
- 20 e) maintaining control output Fourier coefficients for use in generating said drive signal for said system;
- f) modifying said control output Fourier coefficients in accordance with said error coefficients to generate improved control output Fourier coefficients;
- 25 g) performing an inverse Fourier transform on said improved control output Fourier coefficients to generate control output digital data representative of said drive signal for said system; and
- 30 h) using said control output digital data to produce said drive signal for a subsequent period of the periodic product waveform.
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2. An analogue system producing a desired periodic

waveform from a periodic drive signal to the system,
the system having a linear transfer function, wherein
the system comprises:

- 5 a) a sensor producing a control input signal having
a predetermined relationship to said product
waveform;
- b) an A/D converter generating control input digital
data representative of a period of said product
signal;
- 10 c) a source of target digital data representative of
a period of a target waveform having said
predetermined relationship to said desired
waveform;
- 15 d) a digital signal processor receiving said control
input digital data and said target digital data
and generating control output digital data
representative of a period of said drive signal
to the system; and
- 20 e) a D/A converter generating said drive signal from
said control output digital data;
- f) said digital signal processor being arranged to
 - 25 i) perform a Fourier transform on said control
input digital data to generate control input
Fourier coefficients corresponding to said
control input waveform;
 - ii) perform a Fourier transform on said target
digital data to generate target Fourier
coefficients corresponding to said target
waveform;
 - 30 iii) compare said control input Fourier
coefficients and said target Fourier
coefficients;
 - iv) maintain control output Fourier coefficients
for use in generating said control output
digital data,
 - 35 v) modify said control output Fourier
coefficients in accordance with said error

coefficients to generate improved control
output Fourier coefficients, and

- vi) perform an inverse Fourier transform on said
improved control output Fourier coefficients
to generate said control output digital
data.

3. A method of controlling the waveform of a
periodically varying magnetic field, produced by a
periodic current in a magnet winding, so as to match
an intended field waveform, comprising the steps of:

- a) sensing at least one period of the magnetic field
and generating control input digital data
representative of a control input waveform which
is a predetermined function of said magnetic
field waveform;
- b) performing a Fourier transform on said control
input digital data to generate control input
Fourier coefficients corresponding to said
control input waveform;
- c) performing a Fourier transform on target digital
data representative of a period of a target
waveform which is said predetermined function of
said intended field waveform, to generate target
Fourier coefficients corresponding to said target
waveform;
- d) comparing said control input Fourier coefficients
and said target Fourier coefficients to generate
a set of error coefficients;
- e) maintaining control output Fourier coefficients
for use in generating a command current waveform
for producing said periodic magnetic winding
current;
- f) modifying said control output Fourier
coefficients in accordance with said error
coefficients to generate improved control output
Fourier coefficients;

- g) performing an inverse Fourier transform on said improved control output coefficients to generate control output digital data representative of a control output waveform;
- 5 h) periodically generating said command current waveform from said control output digital data, said control output waveform being an inverse of said predetermined function of said command current waveform; and
- 10 i) amplifying said periodic command current waveform to produce said periodic magnetic winding current.

4. A method of controlling the waveform as claimed
15 in Claim 3, in which said control input waveform is the derivative of said magnetic field waveform and said control output waveform is integrated in generating said command current waveform.

20 5. A method of controlling the waveform as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said periodically varying magnetic field is used to scan a charge particle beam and said target waveform represents an intended writing speed of the particle beam over a fixed target.

25 6. A scan controller for a charged particle beam scanner employing a periodically varying magnetic field produced by a periodic current in a magnet winding from a magnet current amplifier, the
30 controller comprising:

- a) a sensor producing a control input signal waveform having a predetermined relationship to said periodically varying magnetic field;
- b) an A/D converter generating control input digital
35 data representative of a period of said control input signal waveform;
- c) a source of target digital data representative of

a period of a target waveform which is said predetermined function of a desired beam scan position waveform;

5 d) a digital signal processor receiving said control input digital data and said target digital data and generating control output digital data representative of a period of a control output waveform;

10 e) a D/A converter arranged to generate a periodic demand signal for output to the magnet current amplifier, said demand signal being an inverse of said predetermined function of said control output signal; and

15 f) said digital signal processor being arranged to i) perform a Fourier transform on said control input digital data to generate control input Fourier coefficients corresponding to said control input signal waveform;

20 ii) perform a Fourier transform on said target digital data to generate target Fourier coefficients corresponding to said target waveform;

25 iii) compare said control input Fourier coefficients and said target Fourier coefficients to generate a set of error coefficients;

iv) maintain control output Fourier coefficients for use in generating said control output digital data,

30 v) modify said control output Fourier coefficients in accordance with said error coefficients to generate improved control output Fourier coefficients, and

35 vi) perform an inverse Fourier transform on said improved control output Fourier coefficients to generate said control output digital data.

